



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 123**

*January Session, 2003*

House Bill No. 6292

*House of Representatives, April 1, 2003*

The Committee on Public Safety reported through REP. DARGAN of the 115th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT ENSURING THE SAFETY OF VACANT BUILDINGS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2003*) If a building or portion of
- 2 a building has been unoccupied and disconnected from the electric
- 3 distribution system for a period of six months or longer, an electrician
- 4 licensed pursuant to chapter 393 of the general statutes, at the expense
- 5 of the owner of such building, shall inspect the electric conductors and
- 6 equipment up to and including the main device to disconnect electric
- 7 power to such building and shall provide written notice to the electric
- 8 distribution company, as defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes,
- 9 authorized to provide electric distribution services to the service area
- 10 in which such building is located that such equipment is electrically
- 11 safe and does not constitute a public safety hazard. Upon receipt of the
- 12 written notice, the electric distribution company shall promptly
- 13 resume delivery of electricity to such building or portion of such
- 14 building.

This act shall take effect as follows:
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2003</i>
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**PS**      *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Type	FY 04 \$	FY 05 \$
Public Safety, Dept.	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

Currently, local building officials have the responsibility of making safety determinations on vacant buildings where electric meters have been disconnected for six or more months. The bill requires that licensed electricians make such determinations at the expense of the owners of such buildings. While local officials would be free to carry out other responsibilities, there are no resulting dollar savings to the state or municipalities from the passage of the bill. It is anticipated that where vacant state buildings are involved, state employed electricians would continue to be used to conduct these inspections.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

HB 6292

***AN ACT ENSURING THE SAFETY OF VACANT BUILDINGS*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires a licensed electrician to inspect the electrical equipment, including the main power disconnect switch, in any building (or part of a building) that has been unoccupied and disconnected from the electric grid for six or more months to determine that it is electrically safe and not a public safety hazard. In areas served by Connecticut Light and Power and United Illuminating, but not municipal utilities, the bill requires the electrician to give written notice of his determination to the company that provides electric distribution services. It requires the company to resume electricity delivery promptly, once notified.

The bill requires the building owner to pay for the inspection.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2003

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 20      Nay 0